



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

from the

## BOARD OF COUNSELING

### INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR LPC, MFT, LSATP Licensure

The Regulations Governing the Practice of Professional Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners contain internship requirements within the graduate educational requirements for licensure.

Regulations Governing the Practice of Professional Counseling, 18VAC115-20-51 (A) (13) requires "a supervised internship of 600 hours with 240 hours of face-to-face client contact."

Regulations Governing the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy, 18VAC115-50-55 (A) (7) requires a "supervised internship of 600 hours to include 240 hours of direct client contact. Three hundred of the internship hours and 120 of the direct client contact hours shall be with couples and families."

Regulation Governing the Practice of Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners, 18VAC115-60-70 (D) requires that "the applicant shall have completed a supervised internship of 600 hours to include 240 hours of direct client contact. At least 450 of the internship hours and 200 of the direct client contact hours shall be in treating substance abuse-specific treatment problems."

Effective November 13, 2009 the Board is allowing **current** licensure applicants, whose internships did not meet the 600 hour and 240 hour requirements set forth by regulation, to register a supervisor and accrue additional post degree supervised experience hours in addition to the required 4000 to offset shortages of internship hours.

Please note that this remedial provision applies only to applicants who have completed graduate level internships from programs that prepare individuals to practice counseling as defined in 18VAC115-49(B), marriage and family therapy as defined in 18VAC115-50-50, or substance abuse treatment as defined in 18VAC115-60-60, **and** who have internships documented on official transcripts, and have submitted the required **Verification of Internship** form to the board office.

**This option is not available to applicants who have not completed an internship.**

The 600 hour internship requirement has been in effect since April 12, 2000 and the Board of Counseling expects all educational programs which prepare students to become licensed under the jurisdiction of the Board of Counseling to ensure that the counseling degree programs fully meet the licensure requirements set forth in the regulations that govern the three licensure professions under the Board of Counseling.

**Please note that the foregoing additional post graduate supervised experience option will only be in effect until December 31, 2010.**

Beginning January 1, 2011 all applicants will be required to comply with the internship requirements, set forth in the regulations. Permission to substitute post graduate supervision hours for internship hour shortages after December 31, 2010 will be denied without exception.